

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 3, 1999 LB 149, 243A

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator. Any discussion on the advancement of LB 243A? Seeing none, Senator, you're recognized to close. Senator Janssen waives closing. The motion before us is the advancement of LB 243A to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 3 nays on the advancement of 243A.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 243A is advanced to E & R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 149, introduced by the Education Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 7, referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair recognizes Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. This morning, the Education Committee is bringing LB 149 to the floor because an error doesn't become a mistake until you refuse to correct it. (Laugh) That was just to see if I was getting your attention. (Laugh) As we try to solve a problem, I think it is important to review how and why we arrived at the problem, and also to remind ourselves of our original goal and, on my own part, focus on that goal still to be attained. To my newly elected colleagues, we are asking you to absorb a great deal in a short amount of time. And to those of you who have to hear school finance one more time, I ask for your patience and your understanding as we endeavor to solve the current funding problem in our schools. I will, in my opening, give a brief review of the past years of school finance, explain the current dilemma, present solutions recommended by the Education Committee, and discuss the necessary time line. LB 1059 was enacted by the Legislature in 1990, prior to a large number of us being here. It was enacted into law to provide equity and property tax relief. As a part of that formula, schools were put under spending lids of 4 to 6.5 percent. The formula set in place a lesser reliance on property and a heavier reliance on